



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
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MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
May 14, 2014

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA
Mr. Al Cocce, AIA, representing John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner
Ms. Morgan Devlin
Mr. Mohamad Farzan, AIA
Ms. Caitlin Greeley, Statewide Planning, representing Kevin Flynn
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom, Chairman
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Mr. Pieter N. Roos
Mr. Clark Schoettle
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director & Deputy SHPO

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, Sr. Project Review Coordinator
Dr. Richard Greenwood, Deputy Director
Ms. Michaela Jergensen, RIDOT Reviewer
Mr. Jeff Rosenberg, Senior Grants Coordinator
Ms. Charlotte Taylor, Senior Archaeologist
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Sr. Special Projects Coordinator

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Janet Coit, Director DEM
Dr. Omur Harmansah
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Dr. Patrick Malone
Mr. Marcel Valois, Executive Director EDC

GUESTS

None

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M., Karst Hoogeboom, Chairman, presiding.

2. Minutes of April 9, 2014

On a motion by Mr. Farzan, seconded by Dr. Onorato, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the Minutes of April 9, 2014.

3. Executive Director's Report: Edward F. Sanderson

a) Ms. Zurier reported on the 2014 statewide preservation conference held in Warren on April 26. The 530-person attendance for "Pride in Preservation" exceeded our expectations. At the Opening Session, the audience listened to remarks from Reverend Esther Irish, Town Council President Christopher Stanley, and Maia Farish of Roger Williams University. Keynote speaker Mark Fenton brought the audience to their feet for his energetic talk on "Historic Communities, Healthy Communities." Afterwards, everybody fanned out to workshops to learn about preservation tax credits and grants, cemetery landscapes, and social media. Tour groups boarded buses, climbed on bicycles, took off on foot, and boarded boats to explore Warren, Barrington, Bristol, and East Providence. The event included 11 workshops as well as 15 tours. The closing reception took place at the Warren Armory. Ms. Zurier thanked Commissioners for their attendance at the conference.

b) Commissioner Devlin and Ms. Zurier reported a proposed state bond issue to fund \$5 million in preservation grants. Preserve Rhode Island is leading the advocacy for the bond issue, and RIHPHC is providing technical information based on the previous State Preservation Grants program organized by Ms. Zurier.

c) Commissioner Devlin and Ms. Zurier also reported the 2014 Rhody Awards for historic preservation that will be presented jointly by Preserve Rhode Island and RIHPHC. Application forms were distributed and Commissioners were encouraged to submit nominations. The awards will be presented at the sixth annual Preservation Celebration, hosted this year at Aldrich Mansion in Warwick on Sunday September 28.

d) Dr. Greenwood reported on research into the history of the General Electric light bulb-base factory on Valley Street in Providence. Dr. Greenwood's research was provided to the City which is reviewing an application to demolish the factory. A copy of the letter was distributed.

Commissioner Schoettle explained that the Providence Historic District Commission is reviewing the proposed demolition, but criteria that must be considered include the deteriorated

condition of the factory and the presence of environmental contamination. Commissioner Morenon suggested that the factory should have historical documentation if demolition cannot be avoided. Commissioner Abbott guessed that demolition would reduce the property tax while the owner seeks a redevelopment opportunity.

4. Report: Nipsachuck Indian Battlefield

Dr. Greenwood and Ms. Taylor reported on the Nipsachuck project.

The second battle of Nipsachuck (1676) is significant in the overall conduct of King Philip's War because it marked the end to organized resistance to the colonists in Narragansett Country. It is also significant as a demonstration of the English colonial forces' acquired mastery of military tactics, including the use of combined English and Indian forces and mounted troops that enabled them to reverse earlier losses and bring the war to a successful close. The battle also marked the death of Sunk Squaw Quaiapen, a major figure in Narragansett society and the last of the ruling Narragansett sachems to be killed in combat during the war. The battlefield also possesses significance for its potential to further elucidate the nature of the battle and the evolution of the tactics and materiel of King Philip's War. In addition, further archaeology has the potential to yield significant information on Native use of interior lands in the Narragansett basin and the particular role that Nipsachuck played as a place of habitation, agriculture, ceremony and refuge.

5. There was no other business.
6. Next regular meeting date: Wednesday June 11, 2014 at 9:30 AM.
7. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,



Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer